

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 1942

The annual meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on January 6, 1942, in the American Museum of Natural History; Vice-President Weiss in the chair, with seventeen members and visitors present.

The following officers were elected for the year 1942

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| President .....      | Harry B. Weiss     |
| Vice-President ..... | Wm. P. Comstock    |
| Secretary .....      | Annette L. Bacon   |
| Treasurer .....      | Dr. H. T. Spieth   |
| Librarian .....      | Leonard J. Sanford |
| Curator .....        | Dr. W. J. Gertsch  |

#### Executive Committee

William T. Davis  
Dr. William Proctor  
Dr. Albert Hartzell  
F. A. Soraci  
Dr. A. B. Klots

#### Publication Committee

Harry B. Weiss  
Ernest L. Bell  
Herbert F. Schwarz  
Edwin W. Teale

Delegate to the New York Academy of Sciences

William T. Davis

Mr. Albert Zerkowitz, 127 West 79th Street, New York City, was proposed for membership by Mr. Comstock.

Mr. Teale told of visiting Dr. L. O. Howard in Washington recently and that Dr. Howard sent his regards to the Society. Dr. Howard is an honorary member of the Society.

Mr. Davis showed a box of cicadas collected in southern California by Dr. and Mrs. Knull of Ohio, and told us about some of the unusual species represented in their collection.

### MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 1942

President Weiss in the chair, 138 visitors and members present.

Because of the large number of visitors present, all business was postponed until the next meeting.

Dr. A. L. Melander showed his colored motion pictures taken during the summer of 1941 in the Great Smokies of Tennessee and in the Adirondacks.

### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 1942

President Weiss in the chair, 24 members and visitors present.

President Weiss appointed the following committees:

Program: Mr. Wm. P. Comstock, Mr. George G. Becker, Dr. Harold Hagan.  
Field: Dr. A. B. Klots, Mr. A. S. Nicolay, Mr. F. S. Blanton.  
Auditing: Dr. William Moore, Dr. W. J. Gertsch, Mr. M. H. Sartor.

Mr. Albert Zerkowitz was elected to membership.

Mr. A. T. Gaul, the speaker of the evening, told about his recent observations on hornets.

#### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 1942

President Weiss in the chair, 30 members and visitors present.

President Weiss appointed a Fiftieth Anniversary Committee consisting of Mr. Teale and Miss Bacon, to make plans for an Anniversary meeting in the fall.

Mr. John D. Sherman, Jr., spoke about Entomological Literature and showed some very rare as well as some interesting books.

#### MEETING OF MARCH 3, 1942

President Weiss in the chair, 30 members and visitors present.

Dr. D. L. Collins told about his western trip last year to the various state universities and experiment stations at which entomological problems were being studied, especially in Idaho and California.

#### MEETING OF MARCH 17, 1942

President Weiss in the chair, 50 members and visitors present.

Mr. Louis Riehl was proposed for membership by Mr. Cazier.

Mrs. Kisliuk said Mr. Kisliuk was well on the road to recovery.

Mr. J. M. Singleton under the title "Some Phases of Port Inspection Problems" showed 900 feet of colored motion pictures accompanied by a general discussion on plant quarantine enforcement. An abstract is appended.

The subject was opened with a discussion of the plant quarantine station at Brownsville, Texas, and illustrations were thrown on the screen showing characteristic problems involved in preventing the entry of plant pests by airplane, rail, automobile and by foot bridge-passengers. Among the duties of plant quarantine inspectors on the Mexican Border is the fumigation of several thousand freight cars annually from Mexico. These are likely to be contaminated with cottonseed infested with the pink boll-worm, a destructive cotton pest. Experience has shown that such seeds are likely to be found anywhere inside or on the outside of freight cars. Hence the entire cars are fumigated. The freight car fumigation house at Laredo, Texas, was shown. This large fumigation plant accomodates 20 freight cars at a time. At San Diego, California, much of the inspectors' time is taken up in cooperation with the Navy whose large volume of shipping is conducted with deference to our plant quarantine regulations. Illustrations of the work at San Francisco showed the inspection of clipper planes. A large corps of uniformed plant quarantine inspectors was also shown handling the baggage of passengers from Hawaii. Inspection service is maintained at various ports along the Canadian Border and illustrations showed some of the problems involved as encountered at Blaine, Washington, and Detroit, Michigan. The airplane view of the water front of the port of New York gave one an idea of the scope of activities involved in preventing the entry of plant pests through several hundred miles of this water front. Mr. Singleton showed some of the

more exacting work being conducted at the Department's plant quarantine station at Hoboken.—GEORGE G. BECKER.

#### MEETING OF APRIL 7, 1942

Vice-President Comstock in the chair, 30 members and visitors present.

Mr. Louis Riehl of the Rockefeller Foundation Laboratory, 341 East 25th Street, New York City, was elected to membership.

Mr. Bell told of his trip to Mississippi in January and of his entomological collecting in the vicinity of Hattiesburg.

#### MEETING OF APRIL 21, 1942

President Weiss in the chair, 50 members and visitors present.

Since the meetings of the A.A.A.S. are to be held in New York next December, Dr. Ruckes presented a motion that a committee be appointed to cooperate with the program committees of the two Entomological Associations which will be meeting here. Motion approved.

Dr. Th. Dobzhansky spoke on "Species as They Appear to a Geneticist." An abstract is appended.

Races are genetically open systems which exchange, or are capable of exchanging, genes with each other. Species are closed systems which are prevented from exchanging genes by reproductive isolating mechanisms. The transition from race to species is gradual; reproductive isolation takes time to become established. Some forms are only racially, and others forms clearly specifically distinct. But there are intermediate steps in the process of evolutionary differentiation at which the distinction between races and species is a matter of taste. The above statements can be illustrated by examples from the genus *Drosophila*, in which evidence from diverse sources, morphological as well as experimental, is available. In the general systematic practice a decision on the race-species issue must, however, be reached on basis of purely morphological data, supplemented by distributional information. It is difficult or impossible to secure direct evidence on the presence or absence of reproductive isolation between the forms examined. Nevertheless, the methods of modern systematics furnish inferential evidence which is in most cases fairly satisfactory.—TH. DOBZHANSKY.

#### MEETING OF MAY 5, 1942

President Weiss in the chair, 26 members and visitors present.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Olsen's invitation to have the picnic of the Society at his home on June 14 be accepted. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Bird gave some personal reminiscences of Mrs. Parsons.

Dr. Charles D. Michener spoke on the "History and Behavior of a Colony of Harvester Ants." An abstract is appended.

Observations on a colony of harvester ants (*Pogonomyrmex californicus*) in Pasadena, California, have shown that for three or four months during the winter the nest is continually closed and that during the remainder of the year it is closed every night. Outside activity goes on only during the warmer parts of the days. The actions of the ants are well correlated with temperature; they are sluggish at 70° F., exhibit maximum foraging activities with

temperatures at the surface of the ground between 90° and 115° F., and are driven into the nest except for very brief excursions by temperatures over 120° F. Swarming occurs more than once each season, during the late mornings of certain clear hot days in June and July. The introduced Argentine ant (*Iridomyrmex humilis*) is a serious pest of the *Pogonomyrmex*. Although the harvesters apparently perceive seeds, which are their chief food, through antennal sensillæ, it appears likely that they are guided in their foraging excursions, notably in finding their way back to the nest, largely by the use of their eyes.—CHARLES D. MICHENER.

MEETING OF MAY 19, 1942

Vice-President Comstock in the chair, 42 members and visitors present.

Mr. Edwin Way Teale spoke on "Recent Advances in Insect Photography," telling about some of the professional insect photographers, and the equipment and methods used by each. A number of his own pictures were displayed.

ANNETTE L. BACON, *Secretary*.